

## **2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 5, 2021**

### **A MOMENT OF SABBATH REFLECTION**

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

—setting, Allan Mahke

*Heather Vincenty, viola; Helen Weiss Phelps, organ*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father,

and of ✝ the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

who alone does wonders,

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,**

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**

*(from the Greek "Kyrie Eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy")*



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad;      ten pie - dad      de no -  
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us;      O . . . Lord,      have . . .*



*so - tros.      Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -  
mer - cy.      Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad;      ten pie - dad      de no - so - tros.  
us;      O. . . Lord,      have . . mer - cy.*



*Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad;      ten pie - dad      de no -  
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us;      O . . . Christ,      have . .*



*so - tros.      Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -  
mer - cy.      Christ, . . have mer - cy on*



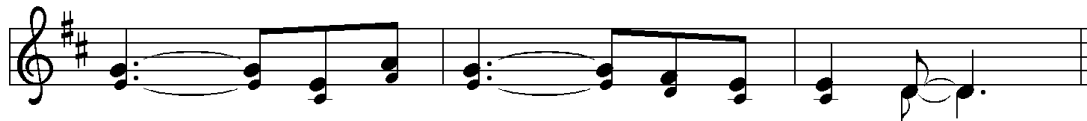
*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
*us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.*



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
*Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .*



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -*  
*mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
*us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.*

**\*GLORIA**



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
*Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!*



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
*Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!*



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
*And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.*



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
*And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.*

## **\*BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

**let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

*Light two blue candles.*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW # 257

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

**By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your  
salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

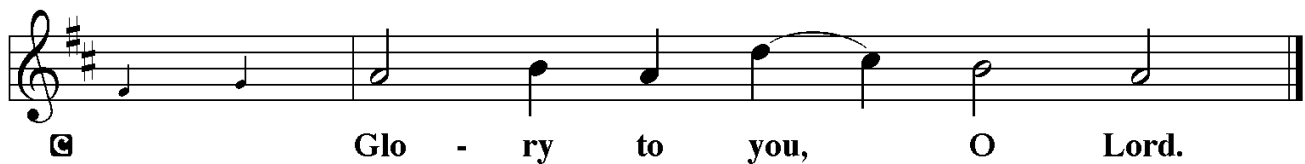
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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## TEACHING MOMENT

### \*GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.



<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

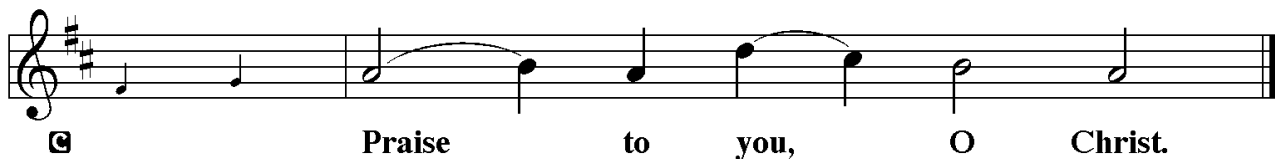
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”


The gospel of the Lord.



**HOMILY** “Hope in the Wilderness”

Pastor Dave Helfrich

**\*SONG OF THE DAY "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW # 264**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

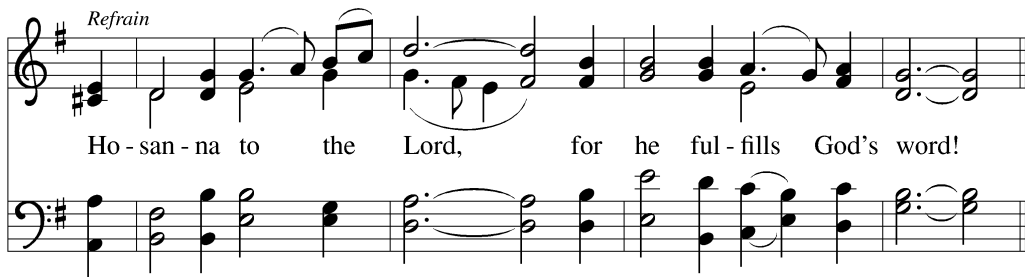


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Grant them healing and wholeness.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things.

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **\*EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

“Comfort, Comfort”

—setting, John Ferguson

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1829-1878;  
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*“Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!” so says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow’s load.*

*To God’s people now proclaim  
That God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.*

*For the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.*

*Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign!*

*For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad,*

*And all flesh shall see the token  
That God's word is never broken.*

*(end)*

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace  
and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION SONGS**

**"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite. Public Domain

ELW # 249

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord,**

**our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.  
(end)**

**COMMUNION HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW # 254**  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Public Domain

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**\*COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING PRAYER**

**\*BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“O Thou of God the Father”

–J. S. Bach



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